



News From

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MONROE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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COUNTY, CITY, NATIONAL AGENCIES JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE WINTER PREPAREDNESS

***RG&E, RGRТА, NY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD,
GET SPECIAL RECOGNITION***

Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle and City of Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. have issued a joint proclamation declaring November 25 – December 1 to be Winter Preparedness Week. Joining County and City officials in calling for winter preparedness week were: the Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Monroe County Office of Emergency Preparedness, and the National Weather Service.

"Last year we joined the Red Cross in honoring local Meteorologists for their valuable work providing weather forecasts,' said Doyle. This year I am pleased to extend special recognition to the Rochester Gas and Electric Company, the Rochester Genesee Regional Transportation Authority, the 1 Battalion of the 142 Aviation - New York Army National Guard and also the New York Army National Guard CSMSC (Combined Service Military Support Company) for their special assistance, outstanding performance and dedicated service to the community in times of weather emergencies. Their unfailing support and presence during winter weather emergencies has repeatedly proven invaluable to maintaining the public's safety and quality of life," said Doyle.

A number of federal, state, local and volunteer agencies are working to inform and educate citizens in Monroe County and across the state on precautionary measures to ensure winter safety and lessen the hardships caused by the winter season. "Severe winter weather can cause death and injury through heart attacks strokes, traffic accidents, and exposure to frigid conditions. It has also responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage each year.

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Winter Weather Preparedness

"The National Weather Service labels winter storms 'the deceptive killers' since about 70% of winter fatalities occur in automobile accidents caused by severe winter weather and people die of heart attacks while shoveling snow," according to Mary Louise "Muffy" Meisenzahl, Administrator for Monroe County's Office of Emergency Preparedness. "Our primary concern is to keep people of Monroe County safe in the event of a winter storm. By teaching them to be prepared and how to react intelligently to winter weather alerts, we are equipping the public to cope better – and in some cases survive – during these annual winter storms."

"We urge families to plan now for winter safety," said Kyle Rodeman, Executive Director of Greater Rochester Red Cross. "Winter storms can occur without warning and a winter storm plan will prepare your family for extreme cold weather conditions. Take precautions such as having extra blankets on hand and ensure that each member of your household has a warm coat, gloves or mittens, a hat, water-resistant boots and a car storm kit before a storm strikes."

The week long preparedness campaign will focus on educating the community about the National Weather Service and winter warning terminology; the importance of understanding road condition forecasts; and vehicle preparedness and vehicle operating safety tips. Web sites containing life saving information can be found at <http://www.fema.gov/pte/talkdiz/winter.htm> or <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/mkx/owlie/winter.htm>.

Participants in the event included Stan Levine, National Weather Service (NWS) Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and Kyle Rodeman, Executive Director Rochester Chapter/American Red Cross. Also participating were City, County and State Department's of Transportation, and the Monroe County Highway Superintendents Association.

Monroe County has been designated as a "StormReady" community by the National Weather Service.

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*For further information, call:
Communications and Special Events, at 428-2380
See us on the web at www.monroecounty.gov*